

## Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINR, OVIP, RO ( DRAGANESCU, EMIL)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ROMANIAN DEPUTY PRIME MIN AND MIN. TRANSPORT  
EMIL DRAGANESCU

REF: ( A) STATE 054110; ( B) BUCHAREST 1074

1. IN RESPONSE TO REF A ASKING FOR MORE RECENT BIOGRAPHIC OBSERVATIONS ON DRAGANESCU, THE FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ON HIS INTERESTS AND PERSONALITY IS PROVIDED. AMBASSADOR EXPECTS TO CALL ON DRAGANESCU AS SOON AS NEW PROGRAM BASED ON PROPOSED CHANGES IN HIS ITINERARY ( REF B) HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY EMBASSY, AND WE SHOULD HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AFTER THAT CALL. SO FAR WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO LEARN ANYTHING ABOUT MINISTER'S WIFE, OFELIA.

2. BRITISH COUNSELLOR PROVIDED FOLLOWING INFORMATION, WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE KNOW, ON BASIS OF BRITISH EXPERIENCE WITH DRAGANESCU DURING HIS TEN- DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO UK ( FEB 18-28) AT INVITATION OF BRITISH MIN TRANSPORT. HIS WIFE DID NOT ACCOMPANY HIM. THEY CONSIDER HIM TO BE TOUGH, CAPABLE, ENERGETIC, WELL AWARE OF HIS POSITION AND AUTHORITY, MORE INTERESTED IN BROAD ASPECTS OF TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS THAN IN TECHNICAL DETAILS, STRAIGHTFORWARD AND NOT DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH, AND ABLE TO GRASP QUICKLY ESSENTIALS OF SUBJECTS UNDER DISCUSSION. BRITS FOUND HIM TO HAVE BEEN WELL BRIEFED ON BILATERAL COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL RELATIONS, AND ADD THAT HE SPOKE WITH AUTHORITY ON BROAD POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC MATTERS OUTSIDE HIS SPECIFIC FIELD. IN FACT, HE MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT, AS DEPUTY PRIME MIN, HE CONSIDERS HIMSELF  
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MUCH MORE THAN HEAD OF A MINISTRY, AND HE BECAME SOMEWHAT TOUCHY WHENEVER HE FELT THAT BRITS WERE NOT TREATING HIM IN MANNER APPROPRIATE TO HIS POSITION. AS EXAMPLE OF THIS ATTITUDE, HE CLEARLY VIEWED ROMANIAN AMB IN LONDON AS LOW- RANKING FUNCTIONARY. ALTHOUGH HE APPEARED TO BE WOEFULLY IGNORANT OF CONTEMPORARY BRITISH BUSINESS, INDUSTRY AND LIFE IN GENERAL, HIS HOSTS FOUND HIM TO BE A FAST LEARNER. HOWEVER, PERHAPS HE IS NOT AS ENERGETIC AS HE APPEARS SINCE HE COMPLAINED ON OCCASION ABOUT PROFESSING " OVERLY HEAVY" AND SENT DEPUTIES IN HIS STEAD TO A FEW OF MORE TECHNICAL MEETINGS.

3. ON MORE PERSONAL LEVEL, DRAGANESCU SPEAKS FRENCH BUT NO ENGLISH. HE IS KEEN RUGBY FAN, HAVING FORMERLY BEEN PLAYER AND LATER HEAD OF ROMANIAN RUGBY FEDERATION ( N. B. DRAGANESCU WAS RECENTLY APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS, IN ADDITION TO HIS OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES, WHICH MAKES HIM IN EFFECT ALSO MINISTER OF SPORTS FOR ROMANIA). BRITS FOUND HIM RATHER SIMPLE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD IN TASTES AND CULTURAL INTERESTS AND SAID THERE WAS NOTHING NOTEWORTHY IN PREFERENCES CONCERNING FOOD, DRINK, ETC.

4. WASHINGTON PROGRAM ALREADY SEEMS GEARED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF DRAGANESCU' S BROADER FUNCTIONS AS DEPUTY PRIME MIN AND FULL MEMBER OF PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, PARTICULARLY CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL ATTENTION BEING ACCORDED TO DRAGANESCU BY SECRETARY BRINEGAR HIMSELF. IN VIEW OF DRAGANESCU' S BROADER FUNCTIONS, WE BELIEVE IT COULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE HIM CALL ON ANOTHER SENIOR EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICIAL IN ADDITION TO SECRETARY BRINEGAR, PERHAPS VICE PRESIDENT AGNEW OR DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE RUSH ( OR SECRETARY ROGERS IF HIS IS FREE) AS PART OF HIS CALL AT STATE ON APRIL 25. BRIEF CALL ON A PROMINENT SENATOR SUCH AS MINORITY LEADER SCOTT ( WHO VISITED BUCHAREST IN 1971) WOULD BE HELPFUL. THESE IDEAS ARE SUGGESTED, IN PARTICULAR, BECAUSE ROMANIANS HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY READY TO GIVE TIME OF THE MOST SENIOR GOV OFFICIALS, INCLUDING CEAUSESCU HIMSELF, TO MEETINGS WITH PROMINENT US VISITORS.

5. IT MAY ALSO BE WORTH NOTING THAT DRAGANESCU CALLED AT EMBASSY TWICE AS SENIOR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS REP TO SIGN CONDOLENCE BOOKS FOR TRUMAN AND JOHNSON. ALTHOUGH IT SHOULD NOT BE OVERDONE, ONE OF SENIOR US OFFICIALS THAT DRAGANESCU LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEETS MIGHT WELL SHOW AWARENESS OF THIS FACT AND THANK

DRAGANESCU FOR THE GESTURE.

6. WITH FURTHER REFERENCE TO GOR DESIRE TO SCRAP VISIT TO BOEING SINCE MIN TRANSPORT HAS LOST JURISDICTION OVER CIVIL AIR TO DEFENSE MINISTRY ( SEE PARA 4 A OF BUCHAREST 1074), STRENGTH OF RECENT GOR REPRESENTATIONS ON THIS POINT ( INCLUDING ONE FROM MFA AS WELL NOW), INCLINES US TO BELIEVE THAT SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE EMBARRASSING TO DRAGANESCU FOR REASONS OF INTERNAL ROMANIAN POLITICS WHICH, AS USUAL, ARE NOT VERY CLEAR IN DETAIL BUT DO SEEM IMPORTANT.  
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